

We claim:

1. In a communication system having a packet data network through which a user selectably communicates at any of a first location and at least a second location and a first telephonic network through which the user also selectably communicates, also at any of the first and at least second locations, respectively, an improvement of  
5 apparatus for facilitating routing of a call to the user placed by a calling party by way of the first telephonic network to a user located at a selected one of the first location and the at least the second location, said apparatus comprising:

a detector embodied at the packet data network and adapted to receive indications provided to the packet data network of at which of the first and at least  
10 second locations at which the user selects to communicate by way of the first telephonic network; and

an indexer coupled to said detector, said indexer for forming an index by indexing together values representative of selection made by the user of the selected one of the first and at least second locations together with calling indicia used to route the  
15 call to the selected one of the first location and the at least the second location.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein a packet communication station is positioned at least at the selected one of the first and at least second locations and coupled in communication connectivity with the packet data network and wherein the indications provided to the packet data network and detected by said detector are  
20 provided by the user through operation of the packet communication station.

3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said detector further detects indications of the calling indicia that is indexed together by said indexer with the values representative of the selection made by said indexer.

4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the indications of the calling indicia are  
25 provided to the packet data network and are provided by the user othrough operation of the packet communication station.

5        5.        The apparatus of claim 1 wherein a telephonic-network communication station is positioned at least at the selected one of the first and at least second locations and coupled in communication connectivity with the first telephonic network, the telephonic-network communication station identified by a calling code and wherein the calling indicia indexed together by said indexer comprises the calling code identifying the telephonic-network communication station.

6.        The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said indexer is coupled to the first telephonic network and the index is accessible therefrom when the calling party places the call to the user.

10        7.        The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the user is associated with a normally-called location, the normally-called location having a normally-called telephonic station associated therewith, and wherein said indexer further indexes the values representative of the normally-called location together with the values representative of the selection made by the user.

15        8.        The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the normally-called location has a normally-called-location dialing code associated therewith and wherein the values representative of the normally-called location indexed by said indexer comprise the normally-called-location dialing code.

20        9.        The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the call placed by the calling party is initiated through entry of the normally-called-location dialing code, and wherein said indexer is accessed pursuant to the routing of the call to ascertain the calling indicia used to route the call to the selected one of the first location and the at least the second location.

25        10.       The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the communication system comprises a Service Control Point (SCP) and wherein said indexer is embodied thereat.

11. The apparatus com claim 1 wherein the packet data network comprises a private network portion and wherein said detector is embodied thereat.

12. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the packet data network comprises a public network portion and wherein said detector is embodied thereat.

5           13     In a method of communicating in a communication system having a packet data network through which a user selectably communicates at any of a first location and at least a second location and a first telephonic network through which the user also selectably communicates, also at any of the first and at least second locations, respectively, an improvement of a method for facilitating routing of a call to the user  
10     placed by a calling party by way of the first telephonic network to a user located at a selected one of the first location and the at least the second location, said method comprising:

                  detecting, at the packet data network, indications provided to the packet data network of at which of the first and at least second locations at which the  
15     user selects to communicate by way of the first telephonic network;

                  forming an index by indexing together values representative of selection made by the user of the selected one of the first and at least second locations together with calling indicia used to route the call to the selected one of the first location and the at least the second location;

20               accessing the index formed during said operation of forming the index when routing the call to the user placed by the calling party; and

                  using information accessed during said operation of accessing to complete the routing of the call.

25           14.     The method of claim 13 wherein a packet communication station is positioned at least at the selected one of the first and at least second locations and is coupled in communication connectivity with the packet data network and wherein said

method further comprises the operation of providing, by the user, through operation of the packet communication station, the indications provided to the packet data network of at which of the first and at least second locations at which the user selects to communicate.

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15        15        The method of claim 14 wherein said operation of providing further comprises providing the indications of the calling indicia to the packet data network through operation of the packet communication station.

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16.        The method of claim 13 wherein the user is associated with a normally-called location, the normally-called location having a normally called telephonic station associated therewith, and wherein said operation of indexing further comprises indexing the values representative of the normally-called location together with values representative of the normally-called location together with values representative of the selection made by the user.

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17.        The method of claim 16 further comprising the operation, prior to said operation of accessing, of placing the call by the calling party.

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18.        The method of claim 17 wherein the values representative of the normally-called location comprise a normally-called telephonic dialing code, and wherein said operation of placing the call comprises entering the normally-called telephonic dialing code.

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19.        The method of claim 18 wherein a telephonic-network communication station is positioned at least at the selected one of the first and at least second locations and coupled in communication connectivity with the first telephonic network, the telephonic network communication station identified by a calling code and wherein said

operation of indexing indexes together the calling code and the normally-called telephonic dialing code.

20. The method of claim 13 wherein the index formed during said operation  
5 of indexing is embodied at a Service Control Point, the Service Control Point  
Accessible from the first telephonic network.



